

Remarks

Claims 1-5, 7-23 are at issue. Claim 6 has been cancelled and claim 23 has been added. Claims 19, 21 and 22 are allowable. Claims 13-18 and 20 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the 35 USC § 112, second paragraph rejections. Claims 4-5, 10-11, 13-18 and 20 stand rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Kriegel et al. Claims 7 & 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Kriegel et al. A new declaration is enclosed that corrects the error pointed out by the Examiner.

The specification has been amended as suggested by the Examiner.

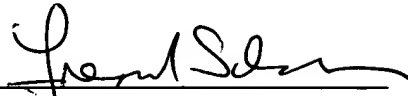
Claims 4-5, 10-14, 17, 20 & 22 have been amended to overcome the objections raised by the Examiner.

Independent claims 1 & 7 have been rejected based on Kriegel et al. Kriegel uses a dewatering step which in their case is a distillation process. See col. 3, lines 45-50. The applicant's invention does not have a dewatering step. As a result the applicant's invention is a continuous process, whereas Kriegel's invention is a batch process in that the dewatering step has to be performed for a batch of material before there is further processing. Claim 1 has been amended to clearly state that a continuous stream of used oil is heated and then the water is removed in a continuous process. Claim 7 has been amended to clearly state that no-dewatering step occurs before the sample is heated. In addition, claim 7 states that the percentage of water in the stream is tested and when it is greater than 4% it is heated by microwave. Claim 23 states that the oil stream is heated conventionally if the percentage of water is not greater than 4%. By removing the dewatering step and making the processes continuous from beginning to end, the present invention provides a process more suited to a production system. In addition, this reduces the cost of processing used oil. Claims 1 & 7 are allowable over the prior art.

Claims 2-5, 8-12 and 23 are allowable as being dependent from an allowable base claim.

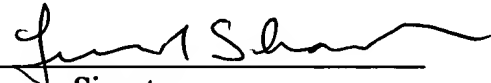
The application has been placed in condition for allowance, prompt reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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I hereby certify that a Response 1/28/04 is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on:

1/28/04
Date


Signature

In the Specification (Markup Version)

Figures 1-4 are block diagrams of systems for purifying waste oil in accordance with various embodiments of the inventive process.

Figure 5 is schematic diagram of a heating step using microwave heating.

Figure 6 is a flow chart of the process steps used for purifying waste oil in accordance with one embodiment of the inventive process.

Figure 7a is a flow chart of the process steps used in a process of calibrating a dielectric net oil analyzer.

Figure 7b is a flow chart of the process steps used for purifying waste oil in accordance with one embodiment of the inventive process.

Figure 8 is a flow chart of the process steps used for purifying waste oil.

In the specification (Marked up Version)

At page 14, line 25

Figure 7[a] is a flow chart of the steps used in a process of calibrating a dielectric net oil analyzer. The process starts, step 200, by preparing a plurality of known oil water mixtures at step 202. A dielectric constant is determined for each of the plurality of known oil water mixtures at step 204. This dielectric net oil analyzer is inserted into each of the plurality of known oil water mixtures. At step 206 a table is prepared that correlates an oil water mixture ratio to a dielectric constant which ends the process at step 208. In one embodiment, an oil water mixture is one hundred percent water and a second oil water mixture is one hundred percent oil.